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STATE OF NEVADA  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
**HEALTH DIVISION**  
BUREAU OF HEALTH CARE QUALITY AND COMPLIANCE

March 15, 2010

To: Residential Care/Assisted Living Facilities

From: Wendy Simons, Consultant/Liaison

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wendy Simons".

Re: Medication Management issues

Due to the increasing concerns in the RC/AL industry regarding medication management and citations by the Bureau of Health Care Quality and Compliance, and with respect for the logistics of each physician's office, I am offering this guideline for you to share with your physician practices.

**1. NAC 449.2742 Medication must be given as prescribed:**

- a. Ask your prescribing physician to indicate on the order "start when delivered"
- b. A resident must not miss a dose of medication unless refused
- c. When a resident misses a dose of a medication for any reason, the physician must be notified (suggest by fax) within 12 hours of the missed dose.
- d. Contact your physicians 1 week before running out of medications if no refills are authorized.
- e. Over the counter and supplements must have physician approval and specific instructions for use.

**2. NAC 449.2746 PRN/ As needed medications**

- a. Instructions from the physician must indicate "specific symptoms" for use and exact dosage amounts, no ranges (ie. 1 or 2)

**3. NRS 449.037(6) states the conditions for which facilities are allowed to assist with medication:**

- a. "The ultimate user's physical and mental condition is stable and is following a predictable course."
- b. "The amount of the medication prescribed is at a maintenance level and does not require a daily assessment."
- c. These conditions prohibit the facility from assessing and adjusting or holding medications based on glucose testing, blood pressure assessment and pulse.
- d. Please advise your physicians to omit such instructions related to assessments.

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